

Santa Claus from Country to Country

Lesson topic:

Various ways Santa is portrayed in different countries

Content Concepts:

-Learn about various Santa Claus legends

United States, Belgium, Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Netherlands, Spain, Chile.

-Social Studies, history, map skills

-Reading (list of library books)

-Math problems

-Science projects

-Craft projects

-Writing practice

-Gaming skills

-Music (list of Christmas CD's)

Proficiency levels: Grades 4 - 6

Information, Materials, Resources:

Social Studies, History, and Map skills

United States:



The modern portrayal of Santa Claus frequently depicts him listening to the Christmas wishes of young children.

Santa Claus (also known as Saint Nicholas, Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, Santy or simply Santa) is a folklore figure in various cultures who distributes gifts to children, normally on Christmas Eve. Each name is a variation of *Saint Nicholas*, but refers to *Santa Claus*. In

today's North American, European and worldwide celebration of Christmas, people young and old simply refer to the hero of the season as *Santa*, or *Santa Claus*. (Wikipedia)

Conventionally, Santa Claus is portrayed as a kindly, round-bellied, merry, bespectacled white man in a red coat trimmed with white fur, with a long white beard. On Christmas Eve, he rides in his sleigh pulled by flying reindeer from house to house to give presents to children. To enter the house, Santa Claus comes down the chimney and exits through the fireplace. During the rest of the year he lives together with his wife Mrs. Claus and his elves manufacturing toys. Some modern depictions of Santa (often in advertising and popular entertainment) will show the elves and Santa's workshop as more of a processing and distribution facility, ordering and receiving the toys from various toy manufacturers from across the world. According to American public opinion, Santa Claus lives at the North Pole, and works in his workshop with all his elves and Mrs. Claus. (Wikipedia)



Saint Nicholas or "Sancte Claus," in a woodcut by Alexander Anderson done for the New York Historical Society.

John Pintard, founder of the New York Historical Society, took an especially keen interest in the legend and the Society hosted its first St. Nicholas anniversary dinner in 1810. Artist Alexander Anderson was commissioned to draw an image of the Saint for the dinner. He was still shown as a religious figure, but now he was also clearly depositing gifts in children's stockings which were hung by the fireplace to dry.



Norman Rockwell's 1921 cover for the magazine *The Country Gentleman* shows Santa with his modern red and white theme.



The 19th century Santa was often shown wearing outfits of different colors: purple, green and blue in addition to red. This slowly faded out so that by the beginning of the 20th century the standard image of Santa Claus was a man in a red suit trimmed with white. The Coca-Cola Company has often been cited for cementing the image of Santa with the colors red and white through a series of popular advertisements in the 1940's depicting Saint Nick enjoying their product (Coca-Cola's company colors are red and white). However, Santa was already well associated with these colors by that time. American artist Norman Rockwell had done a number of paintings with Saint Nick wearing red and white including *A Drum for Tommy* which appeared on the cover of *The Country Gentleman* in 1921. The truth is that by the time the Coke ads came out, Santa, in the public's mind, was already wearing only the modern version of his colors.

The original St. Nicholas lived in southwestern Turkey in the 4th century. As the bishop of Myra he was credited with doing a number of miracles involving sailors and children. After his death this led him to become the patron saint of both groups as well as for unmarried girls. As a saint he was given his own "feast day" that was celebrated on December 6th.

At about the same time Nicholas lived, Pope Julius I decided to establish a date for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. As the actual time of year for this event was unknown, the Pope

decided to assign the holiday to December 25th. There had long been a pagan midwinter festival at this time of year and the Pope hoped to use the holiday to Christianize the celebrations.

Eventually, Saint Nicholas's feast day also became associated with December 25th and his connection with Christmas was established. A tradition developed that he would supposedly visit homes on Christmas Eve and children would place nuts, apples, sweets and other items around the house to welcome him. As the reformation took a hold of much of Europe, however, the popularity of St. Nicholas dropped in most Protestant countries, with the exception of Holland where he was referred to as "Sinter Klaas." After this tradition came to the United States, "Sinter Klass" would eventually be corrupted to "Sancte Claus."

Reference: <http://www.unmuseum.org/santa.htm>

Christmas celebrations around the world

It is interesting to see how different countries celebrate Christmas. We asked some of our friends to explain what happens in their countries. This is what they told us:

Belgium



On 6th December Sinterklaas or Saint-Nicholas is celebrated, which is an entirely different holiday from Christmas. Santa Claus in Belgium is called de Kerstman or le Père Noël and he does come around on Christmas day to bring children presents. There are different cultures in Belgium, the Northern part being Vlaanderen (speaking a Dutch dialect), the Southern part being Wallonie (speaking a French dialect) and the Eastern part speaking German.

Small family presents are given at Christmas too, under the tree, or in stockings near the fire-place, to be found in the morning. Christmas breakfast is a special sweet bread called 'cougrou' or 'cougroulle' - the shape is supposed to be like baby Jesus. Some families will have another big meal on Christmas day.

Brazil



Brazil [Brasil] Curly Haired Santa with Brazilian Flag

Father Christmas is called Papai Noel. Many Christmas customs are similar to USA or UK. For those who have enough money, a special Christmas meal will be chicken, turkey, ham, rice, salad, pork, fresh and dried fruits, often with beer. Poorer people will have chicken, rice and beans and will also drink beer and coke. For dessert people enjoy some Brazilian sweets Brigadeiro made of condensed milk and chocolate. Both rich and poor have Christmas trees. A poor person's Christmas tree is made of plastic or is just a dry tree branch. As we don't have snow in Brazil, poor people put cotton over their Christmas tree branch to simulate snow. Christmas time varies a lot from south to north region.

In Brazil they have a Santa Claus who is called Papai Noel. It is believed that he lives in Greenland.

Because it is so warm in Brazil in December, Papai Noel usually wears light-weight, silk clothing. He brings gifts to children during the night of Christmas Eve.

The children set out their shoes for Papai Noel before they go to bed. On Christmas morning the children find their shoes full of small gifts, and they also look for gifts that are hidden around the house

Have you ever heard of Papai Noel? He's a big part of Christmas celebrations in Brazil, where Christmas comes in the summertime. Unlike European Santas, Papai Noel sometimes dresses in a red silk suit, which is more comfortable in sweltering temperatures.

Papai Noel always arrives in style. Since 1996, Rio de Janeiro has displayed the world's largest floating Christmas tree and light show. Children in Rio crowd into the Maracanã soccer stadium several days before Christmas. Papai Noel, who lives in Greenland according to Brazilian legend, makes a grand entrance. Children look up in the sky and see a helicopter growing closer and closer. When Papai Noel lands, he joins the children in an enthusiastic round of Christmas songs.

Papai Noel appears again on Christmas Eve. Since fireplaces are rare in Brazil, he enters and exits homes through the front door. Before going to bed, boys and girls in Brazil make sure to line up their shoes for the late-night visitor. When they wake up in the morning, they find candy and small gifts inside each shoe. Gifts might also be hidden around the house, so children know to keep alert on Christmas Day.

Since many families exchange gifts on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day can be very relaxed. It's not out of the ordinary for a Brazilian family to plan a beach excursion as part of its Christmas celebrations.

Although Christmas festivities last until January 6, Papai Noel gets most of his work done by December 24. What does he do the rest of the year? You might imagine that he makes good use of his helicopter, joyriding around his neighborhood in Greenland, readying himself for next year's visit.

Finland



Finnish people believe that Father Christmas (Santa Claus) lives in the north part of Finland called Korvatunturi, north of the Arctic Circle. People from all over the world send letters to Santa Claus in Finland. (It is only fair to say that the people of Greenland say that really, Father Christmas lives in Greenland!) There is an even bigger tourist theme park called 'Christmas Land' in the north of Finland, near to where they say that Father Christmas lives. Everyone cleans their houses ready for the three holy days of Christmas - Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day. Christmas Eve is very special, when people eat rice porridge and a sweet soup made from dried fruits (plums, raisins, apples, pears, apricots and figs). It's eaten in the morning or at lunchtime. They will then decorate a spruce tree in the home. At mid-day, the 'Christmas peace declaration' is broadcast on radio and TV from the Finnish city of Turku by its Mayor. In the

evening, a traditional Christmas dinner is eaten. The meal will include 'casseroles' containing liver, rutabaga, carrot and potato, with cooked ham or turkey. Some families eat liver pate. Raw, pickled slightly salted salmon, herrings are also eaten. Mushroom salad is common. Rosolli is cold salad made from peeled, cooked and diced potatoes, carrots, beetroot and diced apples, onions and pickled cucumber. It is seasoned with salt (some people use also pepper). Whipped cream (+ salt, vinegar and beetroot colour to make it pink) is served with rosolli. Food traditions during the Christmas period depend on which part of Finland people live. In Lapland and in Finland's islands there are different foods. Other foods include cooked peas, different kind on salads, roe, cold fish-dishes, pates, other casseroles such as beetroot casserole with cheese or with blue cheese, sweet and spiced breads, carelian pies, and cheeses. Gingerbreads, spiced cakes, different kind of cakes and cookies and others to eat with coffee or milk. You eat these at "day-coffee" time on the Christmas eve (after the Christmas peace declaration which everybody watches on TV, or before going to the church and graveyard), in the evening. Christmas smells include mulled wine, gingerbreads, spices - cinnamon being the most common - Christmas tree, burning candles and hyacinthe. Poinsettia and hyacinthe are the most popular Christmas flowers. On Christmas eve many go to church, on the afternoon or late afternoon (time depends of local churches) - this is new tradition. The "real" and old Christmas church is early on the morning of Christmas day. Many go then too. Graveyards are very beautiful places on the Christmas eve since there are lot of soft white snow and the only lights come from candles people bring to the graves of loved ones. If relatives are buried in other graveyards, there are places in graveyard you can lit your candle to remember them. Sauna of course is part of celebration. People go there before church and graves, or after them. After sauna is the festive dinner. The high moment! After that comes Santa Claus (if there are children) or the presents that are under the Christmas tree are opened. In some families where there are no small kids, the presents are not put under the tree, but collected to big sacks, which are carried near the front door. Then a family member might say, Did I heard sound of reindeers and bells... Or Did I hear Santa Claus... When they go to check, there are big sacks full of presents there. So it was Santa after all. Then people drink coffee and eat cakes, cookies and other sweet things and enjoy present and play games. kids go

France



In France, Christmas is always called 'Noël. Everyone has a Christmas tree, sometimes decorated in the old way with red ribbons and real white wax candles. Fir trees in the garden are often decorated too, with lights on all night.

Father Christmas is called Père Noël. The Christmas meal is an important family gathering with good meat and the best wine. Few people send Christmas cards. More people send New Year cards to wish everyone good luck and joy for the New Year. These days Christmas lunch is a starter of foie gras (a strong tasting pate made from goose liver) followed by lunch of seafood - usually including lobster and oysters. Decorations in houses are minimal but British traditions are catching on here and all the big shops and town centres have Christmas decorations including trees.

Père Noël

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



Père Noël (French pronunciation: [pɛʁ nɔ.ɛl]), "Father Christmas", sometimes called Papa Noël ("Daddy Christmas"), is a legendary gift-bringer at Christmas in France and other French-speaking areas, identified with the Father Christmas and/or Santa Claus of English-speaking territories. Though they were traditionally different, all of them are now the same character, with different names, and the shared characteristics of a red outfit, workshop at the north pole, and team of reindeer.

According to tradition, on Christmas Eve children leave their shoes by the fireplace filled with carrots and treats for Père Noël's donkey, Gui (French for "Mistletoe") before they go to bed. Père Noël takes the offerings and, if the child has been good, leaves presents in their place. Presents are traditionally small enough to fit in the shoes; candy, money or small toys.^[1]

Père Noël is sometimes confused with another character. In Eastern France (Alsace and Lorraine regions), in Belgium, in Switzerland, and in Eastern Europe there is a parallel tradition to celebrate Saint Nicolas on December 6. He is followed by Le Père Fouettard, who exists also in different parts of Germany (Knecht Ruprecht or Belsnickel), Austria (Krampus), the Netherlands (Nicolaas van Myra), and Belgium (Zwarte Piet is a *compagnon of Sinterklaas* in Dutch, *Le Père Fouettard* in French). *Le Père Fouettard* is a sinister figure dressed in black who accompanies *Saint Nicolas* and spansks children who have behaved badly.

Reference Jump up ^ Christmas in France: Le Père Noël - Santa Claus, *France Diplomatie*

1. Germany



De vintage Duitse Kerstkaarten van de Kerstman Kaarten

Germans love to decorate their houses at Christmas. Many houses will have little wooden frames holding electric candles in their windows, and coloured pictures of paper or plastic which look beautiful from the outside at night. Often too, they will have an 'Adventskranz' - a wreath of leaves with four candles. (Advent - meaning 'coming' - is the 4 week period before Christmas). On each Sunday of Advent, another candle is lit. Most homes will also have little wooden 'cribs' - a small model of the stable where Jesus was born, with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and animals.

Father Christmas - 'Der Weihnachtsmann' - brings presents in the late afternoon of Christmas Eve (December 24th), after people have been to a church meeting. The presents are then found under

the Christmas tree. One person in the family will ring a bell and call everyone to come to the room. On Christmas Day, fish (carp) or goose will be cooked.

Hungary



Susanna Denes, a Hungarian friend contributed the following:

Santa Clause (Winter-grandfather) (Tel-apo or Mikulas) comes on the 6th of December. Children should clean and put their shoes outside next to the door or window before they go to sleep. Next day candies and/or small toys appear in them in red bags. For children, who don't behave well, a golden birch placed next to the sweets, a symbol for spanking... (but don't worry, it is just for fun, and not for actual punishment.)

On 24th of December, children go to their relative or to the movies, because little Jesus brings the tree and the presents that evening to their house. It is customary to hang edible things on the tree, like golden wrapped assorted chocolates and meringues beside the glass balls, candles (real or electrical), and sparklers.

Families usually cook festive dinner for that night. An example would be fresh fish usually with

rice or potatoes and homemade pastries as dessert. After dinner, the tree would be viewed by the children for the first time. It was very exciting. Christmas songs are sung and then the gifts under the tree are shared.

Older children attend the midnight mass with their parents. (During communism, children had to hide at the back of the church. Teachers could have lost their jobs for attending the mass. Later (in mid 1970's) most of the Communist Party leaders of the town attended it too.) Next day the children attack the edible part of the tree. Festive food is enjoyed on the second and third day too.

New Zealand



Christmas in New Zealand is warm and time for outdoor entertainment. The countries in the Southern hemisphere experience their summer during the winter months in the Northern Hemisphere. Santa dresses in cooler clothing and people spend Christmas day outside. Lou from Down Under writes: Christmas starts for us with gifts under the tree, to be opened Christmas morning. Then it's onto a Christmas lunch either at home or at one's parents place.

Turkey or chicken with all the trimmings is eaten, and then come tea time, it is a Bar-B-Q for friends and family to get together, and have a few beers or wines with the meal!!

Romania



On the 6th December St Nicholas comes and puts small gifts in children shoes that have been polished and placed near the windows and if children have been naughty they get a little stick. Usually people in the country side grow their own pigs which are sacrificed for Christmas on the 20th of December, and the meat is cooked in different ways for the Christmas meal, like home made smoked/unsmoked sausages. Each part of the pig is used in different ways to make different dishes. Mince is made and together with rice, onions and spices is used for the stuffed cabbage or vine leaves, which are called 'sarmale'. So pig is traditional for Christmas meal. On Christmas Eve usually children go around houses and sing carols and get fruit, sweets or money in exchange. On Christmas Day everyone has a big family meal and visit relatives. In the country side people dress as bears and goats and go and sing special traditional songs at each house in the village. People from Transylvania serve stuffed cabbage on Christmas Eve, and next day for lunch. Most likely the reason for that custom is that stuffed cabbage is the best on the second and third day after it was cooked. Moms can prepare the food a day earlier, leaving more time for decorating and organizing.

Russia



In the days of the Soviet Union, Christmas was not celebrated very much. New Year was the important time - when 'Father Frost' brought presents to children. With the fall of Communism, Christmas can be openly celebrated - either on December 25th; or more often on January 7th. This unusual date is because the Russian Orthodox church uses the old 'Julian' calendar for religious celebration days. Special Christmas food includes cakes, pies and 'meat dumplings'.

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<http://www.soon.org.uk/en/articles/christmas/around-the-world.html>

NETHERLANDS SINTERKLASS

Sinterklaas [sɪntər'klaːs] or *Sint Nicolaas* [sɪnt 'nikolaːs] [[pronunciation \(help·info\)](#)] is a traditional figure based on Saint Nicholas. Other names for the figure include *De Sint* ("The Saint"), *De Goedheiligman* ("The Good Holy Man"), and *De Goede Sint* ("The Good Saint") in Dutch; *Saint-Nicolas* in French; *Sinteklaas* in Frisian; and *Kleeschen* and *Zinniklos* in Luxembourgish.

Sinterklaas is celebrated annually with the giving of gifts on the night before Saint Nicholas Day (5 December) in the Netherlands and on the morning of 6 December, Saint Nicholas Day itself, in Belgium, Luxembourg, and Northern France (French Flanders, Lorraine and Artois). He is also well known in territories of the former Dutch Empire, including Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Indonesia, and Suriname.

He is one of the sources of the popular Christmas icon of Santa Claus.^[1]

Other holiday figures based on Saint Nicholas are celebrated in some parts of Germany and Austria (*Sankt Nikolaus*); Switzerland (*Samichlaus*); Italy (*San Nicola* in Bari, South Tyrol, Alpine municipalities, and many others); parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia (*Sveti Nikola*); Slovenia (*Sveti Nikolaj* or *Sveti Miklavž*); and Greece (*Agios Nikolaos*), among others. See further: Saint Nicholas Day.



Sinterklaas arriving in the Dutch town of Schiedam in 2009



Sinterklaas

Sinterklaas is an elderly, stately and serious man with white hair and a long, full beard. He wears a long red cape or chasuble over a traditional white bishop's alb and sometimes red stola, dons a red mitre and ruby ring, and holds a gold-coloured crozier, a long ceremonial shepherd's staff with a fancy curled top.

He traditionally rides a white horse. In the Netherlands, the horse is called *Amerigo*, and in Belgium, it is named *Slecht Weer Vandaag*, meaning "Bad Weather Today".^[2]

Sinterklaas carries a big book that tells whether each child has been good or naughty in the past year.

Zwarte Piet



Zwarte Piet

Main article: *Zwarte Piet*

A *Zwarte Piet* (Black Pete, plural *Zwarte Pieten*) is a companion of Sinterklaas, usually portrayed by an adolescent in blackface with black curly hair, dressed up like a 17th-century page in a colourful dress, often with a lace collar, and donning a feathered cap.

Sinterklaas and his Black Pete usually carry a bag which contains candy for nice children and a *roe*, a chimney sweep's broom made of willow branches, used to spank naughty children. Some of the older Sinterklaas songs make mention of naughty children being put in the bag and being taken back to Spain. The *Zwarte Pieten* toss candy around, a tradition supposedly originating in Sint Nicolaas' story of saving three young girls from prostitution by tossing golden coins through their window at night to pay their dowry. In recent years the *roe* has been absent to adapt to modern times.

There are various explanations of the origins of the helpers. The oldest explanation is that the helpers symbolize the two ravens Huginn and Muninn who informed Odin on what was going on. In later stories the helper depicts the defeated devil. The devil is defeated by either Odin or his helper Nörwi, the black father of the night. Nörwi is usually depicted with the same staff of birch ("*roe*") as Zwarte Piet. Another, more modern story is that Saint Nicolas liberated an Ethiopian slave boy called 'Piter' (from Saint Peter) from a Myra market, and the boy was so grateful he decided to stay with Saint Nicolas as a helper.^[*citation needed*]

The Zwarte Pieten have roughly the same relationship to the Dutch Saint Nicolas that the elves have to America's Santa Claus. According to tradition, the saint has a Piet for every function: there is a head piet (*Hoofdpiet*), navigation Pieten (*wegwijspiet*) to navigate the steamboat from Spain to the Netherlands, packing Pieten (*pakjespiet*) to pack all the gifts, acrobatic Pieten to climb roofs and stuff presents down the chimney, or to climb down the chimneys themselves. Over the years many stories have been added, but over the years, *Zwarte Piet* developed from a rather unintelligent assistant into a full assistant of the absent-minded Sint.^[3]

Traditionally their faces are blackened because Zwarte Piet is a Spanish (Moorish) servant of Sinterklaas (though some people said Zwarte Piet was originally a slave who, when Sinterklaas bought him his freedom, was so grateful that he stayed to assist him). Today, sometimes the more politically correct explanation that Pete's face is "black from soot" (as Pete has to climb through chimneys to deliver his gifts) is used. With the influx of immigrants to the Netherlands starting in the late 1950s, Zwarte Piet is felt by some to be racist.^[4] Verene Shepherd, chair of United Nations' Working Group on people of African descent, stated in an interview with the Dutch television news program *EEN Vandaag* on 22 October 2013 that, "The working group cannot understand why it is that the people in The Netherlands cannot see that it is a throwback to slavery [...] as a black person I feel, that I, if I were living in The Netherlands, I would object to it". The working group started investigations in 2012 and sent questions to the Dutch UN representative in January 2013.^[5] However, after a more thorough investigation it was announced that the UN would drop any 'racism' related charges against the Dutch.^[6]

Feast

Arrival from Spain



Sinterklaas and his Zwarte Piet helpers arriving by steamboat from Spain

Sinterklaas traditionally arrives in the Netherlands each year in mid-November (the first Saturday after 11 November) by steamboat from Spain. He then parades through the streets on his horse, welcomed by children cheering and singing traditional Sinterklaas songs.^[7] His *Zwarte Piet* assistants throw candy and small, round, gingerbread-like cookies, either *kruidnoten* or *pepernoten*, into the crowd. The event is broadcast live on national television in the Netherlands and Belgium.

After this national arrival, all towns with a dock usually celebrate their own *intocht van Sinterklaas* (arrival of Sinterklaas). Local arrivals usually take place later on the same Saturday of the national arrival, the next Sunday (the day after he arrives in the Netherlands or Belgium), or one weekend after the national arrival. In places a boat cannot reach, Sinterklaas arrives by train, horse, horse-drawn carriage or even a fire truck.

Some suggest that gifts associated with the holy man, the mandarin oranges, led to the misconception that he must have been from Spain.

Spain:



In Spain children leave their shoes under the Christmas tree the night of January 5th and presents from the Three Kings (Los Reyes Magos: Melchor, Gaspar and Baltasar) appear the next morning. Santa Claus is called Papa Noel and some children receive presents both days on December 24th (from Papa Noel) and on January 6th (from the Three Kings). interesting facts about customs and Christmas traditions in Spain:

- Christmas is a deeply religious holiday in Spain
- An elaborate Nativity scene is displayed in many homes
- Papa Noel delivers gifts but also on the morning of January 6th the Three Kings, los Reyes Magos, also bring gifts for the children
- Shoes are filled with straw or barley for the camels that must carry their riders to deliver the gifts. In the morning the food is gone and gifts are left
- The lottery, called El Gordo meaning the Fat One, is one of the great traditions starting on 22 December
- The 'lucky grapes' (las uvas de la suerte) are a tradition followed on New Year's Eve when at each of the bell strokes of midnight one grape is taken and a wish is made for the New Year, el Año Nuevo

Christmas Traditions in Spain - The Food!

What do people eat in other countries at this special time of the year? Festive feasts and recipes are traditional for special occasions including family dinners and meals. Interesting facts about the special food eaten as part of the customs and Christmas traditions in Spain:

- The main meal takes place on Christmas Eve and is called la Nochebuena
- Food served at la Nochebuena consists of a major dish of meat such as lamb (cordero) or fish such as cod (bacalao)

- Turrón, a kind of almond candy, is a traditional sweet

Spanish Christmas Vocabulary

How do you say Merry Christmas in Spain? If you have friends or family who live, or have ties with, a different country it is a nice gesture to add a season's greetings in the language of the country. A practical addition to learning about Christmas traditions in Spain:

- How do you say Merry Christmas in Spanish? "Feliz Navidad!"
- What is the name for Santa Claus? Papa Noel
- Christmas Eve is known in Spanish as La Noche Buena, meaning 'the good night' or also known as Nochebuena

Facts and Information about Spain

Learn a little about the country of Spain, as well as its Christmas traditions! The following information provides some fast, interesting facts about Spain:

- Location: South-western Europe, bordering the Bay of Biscay, Mediterranean Sea, North Atlantic Ocean, and Pyrenees Mountains, southwest of France

Christmas Traditions in Spain

This article provides an overview of the country and the different Christmas traditions in Spain. Lots of free, facts and information for kids, children and teachers! Popular Spanish Christmas traditions detailing the celebrations, gift giving, Santa Claus and other customs followed in Spain.

Christmas in Spain

In Spain it is a very festive time at Christmas. On Christmas Eve, as the stars come out, tiny oil lamps are lit in every house, and after Midnight Mass and Christmas Dinner, streets fill with dancers and onlookers. There is a special Christmas dance called the *Jota* and the words and music have been handed down for hundreds of years. They dance to the sound of guitars and castanets.

Children think of the Three Wise Men as the gift bearers. Tradition has it that they arrive on January 6th, the date the Wise Men gave gifts to Jesus.

Shoes are filled with straw or barley for the tired camels that must carry their riders through the busy night. By morning the camel food is gone and in place of the straw or barley are presents. Shoes also may be placed on balconies on the night of the 6th January in the hope that the Wise Men will fill them with gifts.

Most homes have a manger, like cathedrals and churches. These are complete with carved figures.

During the weeks before Christmas, families gather around their manger to sing, whilst children play tambourines and dance.

The Spanish especially honor the cow at Christmas because it is thought that when Mary gave birth to Jesus the cow in the stable breathed on the Baby Jesus to keep him warm.

Christmas is a deeply religious holiday in Spain. The country's patron saint is the Virgin Mary and the Christmas season officially begins December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is celebrated each year in front of the great Gothic cathedral in Seville with a ceremony called los Seises or the "dance of six." Oddly, the elaborate ritual dance is now performed by not six but ten elaborately costumed boys. It is a series of precise movements and gestures and is said to be quite moving and beautiful.

Christmas Eve is known as Nochebuena or "the Good Night." It is a time for family members to gather together to rejoice and feast around the Nativity scenes that are present in nearly every home. A traditional Christmas treat is turron, a kind of almond candy.

December 28 is the feast of the Holy Innocents. Young boys of a town or village light bonfires and one of them acts as the mayor who orders townspeople to perform civic chores such as sweeping the streets. Refusal to comply results in fines which are used to pay for the celebration.

The children of Spain receive gifts on the feast of the Epiphany. The Magi are particularly revered in Spain. It is believed that they travel through the countryside reenacting their journey to Bethlehem every year at this time. Children leave their shoes on the windowsills and fill them with straw, carrots, and barley for the horses of the Wise Men. Their favorite is Balthazar who rides a donkey and is the one believed to leave the gifts.

The Spanish Christmas is Navidad, people go to church, exchange presents, and many play on swing sets set up especially for the occasion. Swinging at solstice time evokes an ancient desire to encourage the sun, urging it to "swing" ever higher in the sky.

<http://www.santas.net/spanishchristmas.htm>

Chile - Viejo Pascuero, or Old Man Christmas



Chile's gift-bringer is called *Viejo Pascuero*, or Old Man Christmas. In some areas, he strongly resembles Santa Claus in a red and white outfit and likewise comes in a sleigh drawn by reindeer. However, as chimneys are less than roomy in this warm climate, he contents himself with climbing in a window. In other areas, Viejo Pascuero is seen as a local rancher and is often in the company of a llama.

Prior to Christmas, Catholics observe a novena or nine day period of prayer and spiritual preparation.

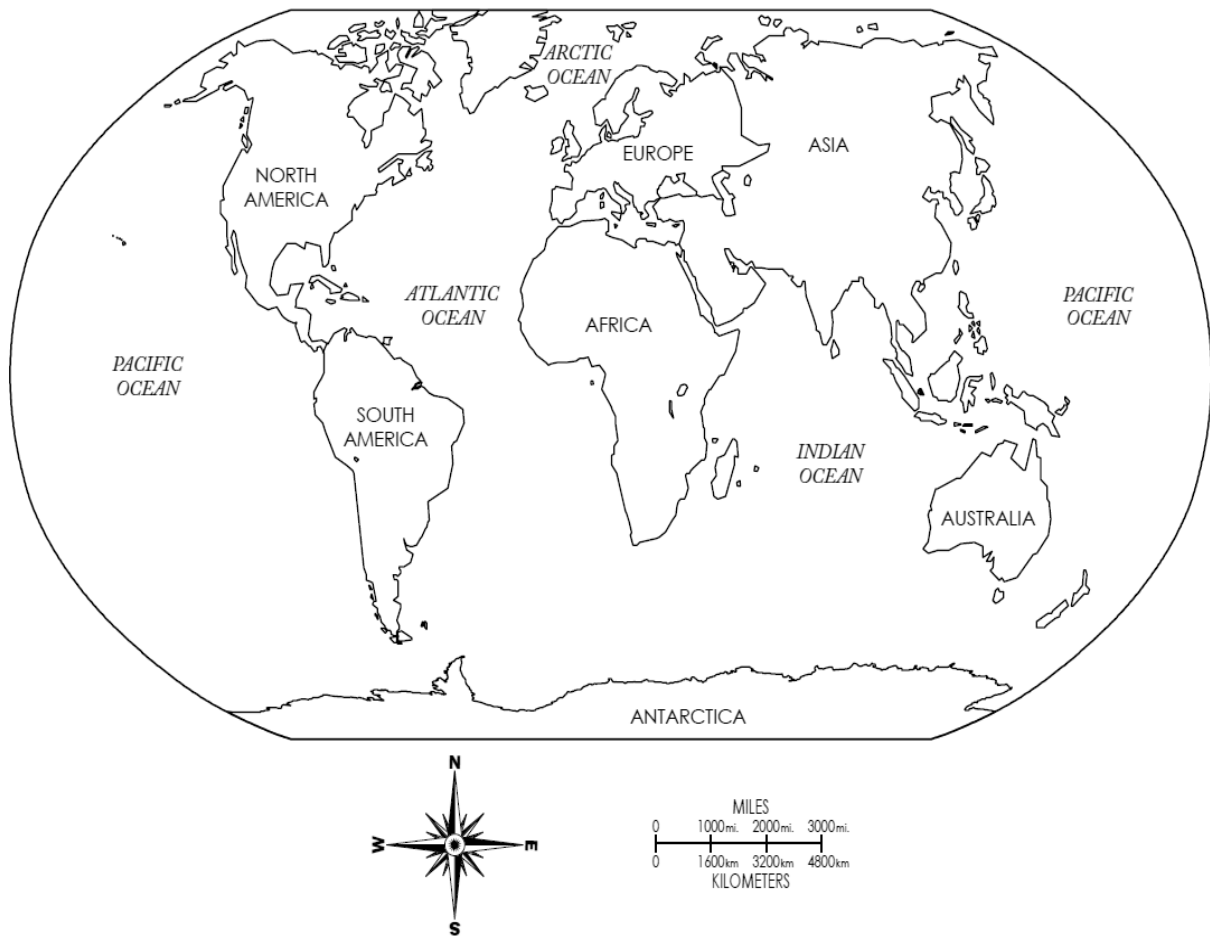
As in all Latin America, the manger scene is the center of festivities; and following the midnight Mass of the Rooster, the Christmas Eve meal often includes *azuela de ave*, a chicken soup filled with potatoes, onions and corn on the cob; and *Pan de Pasqua*, a Christmas bread filled with candied fruit. After the meal, presents are exchanged and the children are put to bed while the adults continue to celebrate.

The meal on Christmas Day usually includes turkey, seafood, and freshly grown vegetables and salads (it's summer in December) along with Chilean wine for which the country is famous.

Chile runs down the southwest coast of South America, bordering the South Pacific Ocean and, in the southernmost part, touches the South Atlantic Ocean. Its neighbors are Argentina and Bolivia to the east and Peru to the north

<http://www.coca-colacompany.com/holidays/the-true-history-of-the-modern-day-santa-claus>

Continents and Oceans of the World

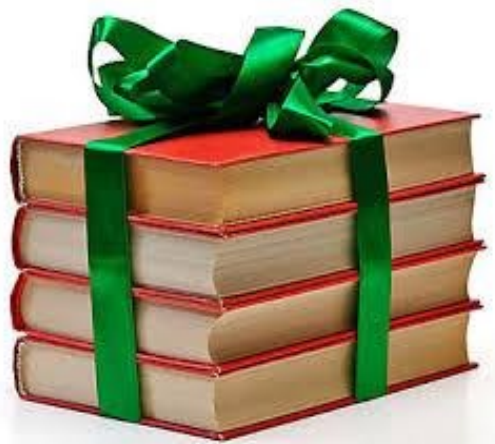


Super Teacher Worksheets - www.superteacherworksheets.com

Social Studies (map skills)

Locate places on the map above (or a globe) where the different “Santas” visit each year. For example, Sinterklass visits the Netherlands—find the Netherlands on the map.

BOOKS ABOUT SANTA AND CHRISTMAS:



Book List: The truth about Santa Claus by Alan Barrington
The truth about Santa Clause by James Cross
Christmas – Why we celebrate it the way we do by Martin Hintz
Christmas around the world by Mary D. Lankford
A Christmas celebration, traditions and customs around the world
by Pamela Kennedy
The real Santa Claus by Marianna Mayer
Santa from around the world by George Ouwendijk
The night before Christmas by Clement Clarke Moore
A visit from St. Nicholas by Clement Clarke Moore (also on Hoopla and Overdrive)
The story of Santa Claus by Teresa Chris
Who is Santa Claus by Robin Crichton
Christmas in Spain by Valjean McLenigan

Twas Nochebuena by Rosanne Gree Thong (childrens)
Christmas in Brazil : from World Book / World Book, Inc.
Christmas in Germany
Who is Santa Claus? : the true story behind a living legend / Crichton, Robin.

List of countries with names for Santa:

Europe



A Dutch woman as Zwarte Piet, Sinterklaas' helper.

Santa Claus is generally known throughout Europe but, in some countries, the gift-giver's name, attributes, date of arrival, and identity varies.

- Azerbaijan: Şaxta Baba ("Froze Dad")
- Austria: Christkind ("Christ child")
- Belgium: "Santa Claus," called Père Noël by French speakers and Kerstman ("Father Christmas") by Dutch speakers, is celebrated on Christmas Day. Sinterklaas for the Dutch speakers, Saint Nicholas for the French speakers, is celebrated on 6 December, and has a distinct character with a more religious, Catholic overtone.
- Bosnia: Djed Božićnjak or Božić Bata for Christians, and Djed Mraz for Muslims and others. Djed Mraz brings gifts to children on New Year's Eve.
- Bulgaria: Дядо Коледа (Dyado Koleda, "Grandpa Christmas"), with the Russian-borrowed version of Дед Мороз (Djed Moroz, "Grandpa Frost") being somewhat more widespread in Socialist times from the end of World War II until 1989, and is still in

favour today. The town of Velikiy Ustjug in the Vologda region is proclaimed to be his permanent residence.

- Croatia: Djed Božićnjak ("Grandpa Christmas"), or Djed Mraz ("Grandpa Frost"), Mali Isus ("Baby Jesus") for religious Christians, Sveti Nikola ("Saint Nicholas") brings gifts, or rod, on 6 December.
- Czech Republic: Ježíšek ("Baby Jesus")
- Denmark: Julemanden ("The Christmas Man") lives in Greenland.
- Estonia: Jõuluvana ("Old Man of Christmas")
- Finland: Joulupukki ("Yule Goat")
- France: Le Père Noël ("Father Christmas") is a common figure France, as well as in other French-speaking areas.
- Germany: Weihnachtsmann ("Christmas Man") or Christkindle ("Christ Child") (in southern Germany) brings the gifts on Christmas Eve. Nikolaus is celebrated on 6 December.
- Greece: Άγιος Βασίλης ("Saint Basil")
- Hungary: In Hungary, the angels bring the Christmas gifts, or the child Jesus ("Jézuska" or "Kis Jézus"). Mikulás ("Nicholas" as Santa Claus) has a separate, earlier feast day (6 December), and puts candy in kids' boots (which are to be polished and put in the window), but Mikulás is never involved in Christmas.
- Iceland: Jólasveinar. In Icelandic folktales, there are 13 Santa Clauses.
- Ireland: Daidí na Nollag ("Father Christmas") among Irish speakers
- Italy: Babbo Natale ("Father Christmas"), sometimes substituted by Gesù bambino ("Baby Jesus"), in order to give this gift-bringing character a more Catholic connotation. On the Epiphany, 6 January, La Befana, a very old lady who rides a broomstick, brings candies and sweets to children, and she puts them in the socks the children have prepared for her (and traditionally have hung near the fireplace). In Trieste, because of Slovenian and Croatian influences, Saint Nicholas is also celebrated on 6 December. In Udine, Bergamo, Brescia, Cremona, Lodi, Mantova, Piacenza, Parma, Reggio Emilia, Verona and Western Trentino, Saint Lucy brings gifts to children on the eve of her feast day, 13 December.
- Latvia: Ziemassvētku vecītis
- Liechtenstein: Christkind

- Lithuania: *Kalėdy Senelis*
- Luxembourg: *Kleeschen*
- Macedonia: *Dedo Mraz*
- Netherlands: "Santa Claus," called *Kerstman* ("Christmas Man"), is celebrated by some people on Christmas Day. *Sinterklaas* is celebrated on 5 December.
- Norway: *Julenissen*, may be a small, elderly man, a Christmas dwarf, but he is similar to contemporary Santa Claus.
- Poland: *Święty Mikołaj* ("Saint Nicolas")
- Portugal: *Pai Natal* ("Father Christmas")
- Romania: *Moș Crăciun* ("Old Man Christmas"), *Moș Gerilă* ("Old Man Frost," the equivalent of the Russian *Ded Moroz*) in Socialist times, *Moș Nicolae* ("Old Man Nicholas," Saint Nicholas) is celebrated on 6 December and puts sweets in children's boots.
- Russia: *Дед Мороз* (*Ded Moroz*, "Grandpa Frost"), *Чысхаан* (*Chyskhaan* "Lord of the Cold") - Sakha Republic (Yakutia)), *Yamal Iri* - ("Grandpa of Yamal").
- Scotland: *Bodach na Nollaig* (Scots Gaelic: "Old Man of Christmas")
- Serbia: *Deda Mraz* (*Деда Мраз*: "Grandpa Frost"), renamed from *Božić Bata* (*Божућ Бата*: "Christmas Brother") during the Communist times after World War II, and moved from Christmas to New Year to prevent any religious connections.
- Slovakia: *Dedo Mraz* ("Grandpa Frost") or Santa Claus among the secular population, *Ježiško* ("Baby Jesus") among the Catholic population.
- Slovenia: *Božicek*
- Spain: *Papá Noel* ("Father Noel"), the *Tió de Nadal* in Catalonia, *Olentzero* in the Basque Country, *Apalpador* in some areas of Galicia, *Esteru* and *Anjanas* in Cantabria, and *Anguleru* in Asturias. More common and traditional Christmas present-giving figures in Spain are "*Los Reyes Magos*" ("The Three Kings", "Magi").
- Sweden: *Jultomten* ("The Yule/Christmas Gnome")
- Switzerland: *Christkind*

- Turkey: *Noel Baba* ("Father Noel"). *Noel Baba* is widely thought to bring New Year presents in Turkey due to the country's predominant Muslim population. Christmas is celebrated among the Christian communities.
- Ukraine: *Святий Миколай* (*Sviaty Mykolay*, "Saint Nicholas")
- United Kingdom: Father Christmas is also known as Santa Claus, although they were originally two quite different people, and *Father Christmas* did not originally bring gifts.
- Wales: *Siôn Corn* in Welsh

North America and Oceania

- Australia: Best known as Santa Claus, and less commonly referred to as "Father Christmas" and "Saint Nick". He will come while children are sleeping and will put presents under the tree. Usually, people will leave a glass of milk along with cookies, and sometimes carrots for the reindeer.^[1]
- Canada: Santa Claus (among English speakers), *Le Père Noël* ("Father Christmas") among French speakers
- New Zealand: Santa Claus, Father Christmas
- United States: Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Saint Nicholas, or Saint Nick

Latin America

Santa Claus in Latin America is generally referred to with different names from country to country.

- Argentina: *Papá Noel*, *El Niño Dios*
- Bolivia: *Papá Noel*, *El Niño Dios*
- Brazil: *Papai Noel* ("Father Christmas"), *Bom Velhinho* ("Good Old Man")
- Chile: *Viejito Pascuero* ("Old Man Christmas")
- Colombia: *El Niño Dios* ("God child"), *Papa Noel*
- Costa Rica: *San Nicolás* or *Santa Clos*, *Colacho* (from "San Nicolás"), the *Niño dios* ("Child God," meaning Jesus) is the traditional giftbringer.
- Dominican Republic: *Santa Clos/Papá Noe*. However, traditionally, Christmas gifts are given by The Three Kings (*Los Tres Reyes Magos*) on the Epiphany (6 January) and not on Christmas.
- Ecuador: *El Niño Dios* ("God child"), *Papá Noel*
- Mexico: *Santo Clós* (Santa Claus); *El Niño Dios* ("God child," in reference to Jesus) and *Los Tres Reyes Magos*
- Paraguay: *Papá Noel*, *El Niño Dios*
- Peru: *Papá Noel*
- Puerto Rico: *Jesús Christmas*, *Los Tres Reyes Magos* (The Three Kings Day), *Santa Clos*.

- Uruguay: *Papá Noel*, *El Niño Dios*
- Venezuela: *Niño Jesús* ("Child Jesus"), *San Nicolás* ("Santa"), depending upon the region
- Honduras

Asia

East Asia

People in East Asia, particularly in countries that have adopted Western cultures, celebrate Christmas and the gift-giver traditions passed down to them from the West.

- China: *Shengdan laoren* (Traditional Chinese: 聖誕老人, Simplified Chinese: 圣诞老人, Cantonese: *sing daan lo jan*, pinyin: *shèngdànlǎorén* literally, "The Old Man of Christmas")
- Hong Kong: 聖誕老人 (jyutping: *sing3 daan3 lou5 jan4* (literally, "Christmas Old Man"), Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas
- Indonesia: Santa Claus or *Sinterklas*
- Japan: サンタクロース (*Santa Kuroosu*, or *Santa-san*)
- Korea: 산타 클로스 (*Santa Harabeoji* or "Grandfather Santa")
- Philippines: Santa Claus. Traditionally, it was the *Los Tres Reyes Magos* ("The Three Kings")
- Taiwan: 聖誕老人 or 聖誕老公公 (both literally "The Old Man of Christmas")
- Thailand: ซานตาคลอส (Santa Claus)
- Vietnam: Ông Già Nô-en (literally, "The Old Man of Christmas")

South Asia

- India: Tamil: *Christmas Thatha* ("Christmas Grandpa"), ಸಂತಾ ಕ್ರಿಸ್ತ (in southern India); *Jingal Bell*, Santa Claus, Telugu: Thatha ("Christmas Old Man") Marathi: *Natal Bua* ("Christmas Elder Man")
- Sri Lanka: *Naththal Seeya*
- Tatarstan: *Qış Babay/Кыш Бабай* ("Winter Grandfather")
- Turkmenistan: *Aýaz baba*
- Uzbekistan: *Ayoz Bobo* ("Frost Grandpa"), *Qor Bobo* ("Snow Grandfather")

Africa and the Middle East

Christians in Africa and the Middle East who celebrate Christmas generally ascribe to the gift-giver traditions passed down to them by Europeans in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Descendants of colonizers still residing in these regions likewise continue the practices of their ancestors.

1. Afghanistan: *Papa Noël* (Arabic: بابا نويل *baba noel*); *Baba Chaghaloo*
2. Egypt: *Papa Noël* (Arabic: بابا نويل *baba noel*)
3. Iran: *Papa Noël* (Arabic: بابا نويل *baba noel*)

4. Israel: סנטה קלאוס (Santa Claus in Hebrew letters. Most of the population in Israel is Jewish and does not recognize the entity known as "Santa Claus")
5. South Africa: *Sinterklaas*, Father Christmas, Santa Claus

6. Math skills and Science projects for Christmas
7. http://www.math-drills.com/christmas/christmas_word_problems.html
8. <http://math.about.com/od/christmasmathworksheets/a/xmaswp.htm>
9. Christmas Word Problems
10. 1. Santa can see up to 25 children per hour. What is the maximum number of children he can see in 6 hours? 150 children
11. 2. The price for each reindeer harness is \$17.95. What is the price for 9 reindeer harnesses? \$161.55 Challenge: If the tax rate is 14%, how much would 9 reindeer harnesses including tax cost? \$184.17
12. 3. Lana Elf measured the width of 9 Christmas presents. The total width of all the presents was 135 inches. If the presents were all the same width, how wide was each present? 15 inches If all the presents had all different widths, what is one possibility for the widths of the 9 presents? Various answers are possible here as long as
13. they add up to 135 and they are all different amounts. Older students can also use decimals.
14. 4. Peter Elf had 149 presents (not all for him) on Christmas Eve. On Christmas Day, he received 132 more presents and he gave away 128 presents. How many presents did he have to open for himself on Christmas Day? 153 presents
15. 5. Thirty elves would like to build a skating rink, so they can all use it at the same time. Santa tells them, they need at least 40 square feet for each skater, so no one will bump into each other. If they build a rectangular rink, what are some possible dimensions (length and width) for the rink? Various answers are possible as long as the
16. width and the length multiply together to make 1200 sq. ft. (e.g. 20 x 60, 30 x 40, 25 x 48). Maybe discuss the shape that would make the most sense since a 1 x 1200 ft. rink probably wouldn't be practical.
17. 6. Each batch of Mrs. Crawley's toffee makes 14 pieces of toffee. If Sandy needs 8 dozen pieces of toffee, how many batches does she have to make? 7 batches
18. 7. For the Christmas dance, the dance committee needs three hours of music. Each song is an average of 3.5 minutes. How many songs do they need? 180 minutes divided by 3.5 minutes or 1800 divided by 35 is probably the easiest way to do this. One of the numbers has to be converted to the other units regardless. About 52 songs.
19. 8. A candy cane factory has to order boxes for its candy canes. If they plan to make 300,000 candy canes and each box can hold 12 candy canes, how many boxes do they need to order. 25,000 boxes

20. 9. Mr. Anderson wants to decorate six of his windows with garland. Two of the windows are 3.4 feet by 5.2 feet and the other four windows are 3.6 feet by 4.8 feet. How many feet of garland are needed for all the windows.
21. Since this is a perimeter question, students also need to add the other two sides for each window. $34.4 \text{ feet} + 67.2 \text{ feet} = 101.6 \text{ feet}$ of garland.
22. 10. Santa needs to order boots for all of his reindeer. He has four reindeer pens with 12, 19, 14 and 16 reindeer in them. How many boots are needed? $61 \text{ reindeer} \times 4 \text{ boots per reindeer} = 244 \text{ boots}$.
23. <http://www.kidzone.ws/math/christmas/#Worksheets4>

SUBTRACTION

$$\begin{array}{r} 66943 \\ - 53776 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 75262 \\ - 57381 \\ \hline \end{array}$$



$$\begin{array}{r} 55669 \\ - 21289 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 71421 \\ - 46571 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 53857 \\ - 25664 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 33619 \\ - 30018 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 91858 \\ - 70381 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 42061 \\ - 17151 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 55861 \\ - 15634 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 64957 \\ - 29602 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

- 24.
25. Science projects for Christmas
- 26.
27. <http://www.growingajeweledrose.com/2012/12/santa-science-activities-for-kids.html>
- 28.



- 29.
- 30.
31. To make Santa Toothpaste you will need:
- 32.
33. ~ 6% or higher hydrogen peroxide (*found in salon and beauty stores like Sally's Beauty Supply*)
34. ~ Dish soap
35. ~ Green or red food coloring
36. ~ peppermint extract
37. ~ Glitter and sparkle
38. ~ Yeast
39. ~ Water
40. ~ An empty soda bottle
- 41.
42. Mix one cup of the hydrogen peroxide with a few drops of food coloring, peppermint extract, glitter, and a generous squirt of dish soap in the soda bottle. Mix well by swirling the bottle- do not shake.
43. It's a good idea to have a cookie sheet or similar object to catch the toothpaste
- 44.
45. In a small bowl combine 3 tablespoons of yeast with 6 tablespoons of very warm water. Mix well, until all clumps are gone. When ready, pour the yeast into the bottle- the reaction happens fast so have your camera ready if you desire photos! The toothpaste shot about 4 feet in the air when it first started coming out but I missed the shot.

46.

47.

48. Once it starts, it just keeps going and going.....



Christmas Sinking and Floating

<http://www.science-sparks.com/2013/12/12/christmas-sinking-and-floating/>

We've done lots of sinking and floating activities before, but today tried it with a Christmas twist.



What you need:

- o A large container
 - o Water
 - o Decorations
 - o Method
1. Look at your items, can you predict which will sink and which will float? You could even make a table to record your predictions and the results. Add each item one at a time to the water.
 2. Were your predictions correct?
 3. Find a small bucket that floats. If you put an object that previously sank into it, what happens?
 4. The Science bit.
 5. Whether an object floats or sinks depends on its density. Density is how tightly packed the material inside an object is. Just because something is heavy does not mean it will sink. For example, ships are very heavy but not very dense so they float.

Crafts

Christmas Sewing Craft - Washcloth Santa Christmas Tree Ornament



This cute Santa's body and hat are made using red wash cloths. These are petite and therefore look adorable especially on small Christmas trees.

For this project you will need:

- red washcloth
- 2 cm wooden ball with a hole on each end
- 1 red 6mm wooden red bead cut in half for the nose
- cotton for the beard
- black acrylic paint to dot the eyes
- red sewing thread
- craft glue

Instructions:

1. Cut a 2 and 3 inch circle out of the washcloth. The 3 inch circle will be the body.
2. Sew a running stitch around the outside edge of the 3 inch circle like you are making a fabric yo-yo. Stuff the inside of the circle while pulling the threads at the same time to close the circle. Once the circle is closed, knot off the thread. Leave the thread long and insert the needle into the wooden bead and pull the thread through. Glue the wooden bead to the red body. Leave the thread hanging.
3. Cut the smaller 2 inch circle in half. Fold it into a cone shape and glue the edge down. This is the hat. Pull the needle and thread through the top of the hat and then glue the hat rim to the wooden bead.
4. Dot two eyes onto the wooden bead.
5. Glue the red wooden half bead onto the face as the nose.
6. The area under the nose and around the back of the bead, glue cotton to resemble beard and hair.

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

Paper Craft for Christmas - Paper Napkin Applique - Cute Santa Gift Bag

This bag looks a bit antique because of the crackle medium used before applying the paper napkin. This causes an ancient crackling effect which adds a little something to an otherwise simple design.



For this project you will need:

- brown paper bag with handles
- red and white acrylic paint
- crackle medium
- flat paint brushes
- paper napkin with Santa motif
- paper napkin applique glue
- soft paint brush for applying the paper napkin glue
- red checked ribbon

Instructions:

1. First, paint the area you wish to decorate with red paint and let the paint dry.
2. Now cover the same area with the crackle medium and let it dry.
3. Now paint over the same area with white paint. Try not to brush over the previous white brush strokes again. This will interfere with the crackling process. While drying, you will observe the paint start to crackle. Let the bag dry overnight before continuing.
4. Tear the motif out of the paper napkin and remove all but the top layer of the napkin. Now use the paper napkin applique glue to apply the paper napkin to the painted area of the bag. The crackles will show through the paper napkin. Let the motif dry for a few hours before using the bag.
5. Attach ribbon to the bag handles for decoration.

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

Christmas and Winter Crafts for Kids - Pom-Pom Santa Claus

Kids will have fun making this project on a cold December afternoon. This cute and fluffy Santa would be pleased to become a part of your Christmas decorations - whether as a table decoration, or high up on a shelf. It does not require a lot of time to craft this project, just a little patience waiting for the glue to dry.



For this project you will need:

- red yarn & red felt
- 4 cm wooden ball
- small bit of batting
- 8mm red wooden bead (divided in half for the nose)
- red artist chalks or colored pencil (for blushing the cheeks)
- circle templates
- thick cardboard for creating templates
- scissors
- craft glue
- old CD to use as a template for creating the Santa hat
- black marker or paint for eyes

Instructions:

1. Follow the instructions in the pom-pom tutorial below to make the Santa body. The body here is 5 centimeters big.
2. To create the hat, use the CD and trace onto red felt. Cut the circle out and then cut it in half. Take the half and fold it over matching the straight edges until a hat shape is created. Glue the straight edge and let dry. When dry, glue to the top of the wooden bead.
3. Glue the wooden bead to the pom-pom and let it dry thoroughly.
4. Dot on the eyes, glue the red half bead on for the nose and glue on a small piece of batting for the beard.

Ages 9 and older Time: About 1 hour

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

Christmas Card Craft - Nostalgic Father Christmas Christmas Card

This old world Father Christmas or Santa is busy bringing old world toys for all of the good girls and boys. Old nostalgic images make wonderful motifs for Christmas cards. The peel-off sticker message says "Frohe Weihnachten" which is German for "Merry Christmas".



For this project you will need:

- cream colored card (10.5 x 15 cm) or close to that size
- cream colored and burgundy red cardstock
- sticker or paper motif with old world Santa wearing burgundy red attire
- Cuttlebug Machine
- Cuttlebug folder with small dots
- embossing folder with Christmas message written in an ancient alphabet (to compliment the old world effect)
- 3-D foam tape
- stick glue

Instructions:

1. Cut a 1 cm wide strip and adhere it across the middle of your card.
2. Cut a 6.5 x 10.5 cm cream colored rectangle and then a 7.5 x 11.5 cm burgundy red rectangle out of the cardstock. Glue the cream colored rectangle centered onto the burgundy red rectangle. Emboss the rectangle then with the Cuttlebug machine. Afterwards adhere it onto the top center of the card using 3-D foam tape.
3. Adhere then the old world Santa sticker or motif onto the rectangle.
4. Emboss the Christmas greeting onto cream colored cardstock and cut it out. Then adhere the cardstock onto burgundy red cardstock and cut out with a minimal border. Then use 3-D foam tape to adhere the greeting onto the bottom of the card.

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

Christmas Card Craft - Nostalgic Father Christmas Christmas Card

This old world Father Christmas or Santa is busy bringing old world toys for all of the good girls and boys. Old nostalgic images make wonderful motifs for Christmas cards. The peel-off sticker message says Frohe Weihnachten” which is German for “Merry Christmas”.



For this project you will need:

- off white card
- image with old world Father Christmas
- gold colored paper
- decorative edged scissors
- off white fiber paper with added gold fibers (if available in your area)
- gold peel-off stickers
- peel-off sticker with Christmas message
- stick glue

Instructions:

1. First cut out a large oval shape with the decorative edged scissors and glue it onto the card.
2. Then tear an irregular piece of fiber paper and glue it half way over the oval.
3. Adhere the Father Christmas image onto the card.
4. Add peel-off Christmas message to the top right of the card.
5. Embellish the card with peel-off sticker stars.

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

Christmas Crafts - Recycling Crafts - Paper Tube Santa Claus

Save a toilet paper roll and add just a few embellishments to create this cute Santa Claus. This project is easy for kids older than 7 (supervision is needed when using the hot glue gun) and is also a lot of fun to make as a group project in school for the holidays. 24 of these Santas would make a cute advent calendar! Just hide the surprise inside and close off the bottom with a cardstock circle.



For this project you will need:

- 1 toilet paper roll
- red crepe paper
- red and beige construction paper
- set of 6 or 8 mm wiggle eyes
- 8 mm red half bead for the nose
- 30 cm or 12" piece of white chenille
- cotton batting for beard
- stick glue
- hot glue gun
- red cording

Instructions:

1. First cut a wide strip of beige construction paper and adhere to the top half of the toilet paper roll.
2. Take a wide strip of red crepe paper and adhere it around the top third of the toilet paper roll. Tie the top off with cording.
3. Adhere a wide strip of red construction paper (or crepe paper) around the bottom half of the roll. *Construction paper has the advantage that it is more durable and does not bleed when glue is added on it.*
4. Glue a piece of chenille around the bottom of the hat. Cut excess away on the backside.
5. Glue a piece of chenille down the front center of the red paper (coat).
6. Use the hot glue and glue on the wiggle eyes and nose. (Jewelry glue or designer tacky glue may also be used but needs longer to dry).
7. Glue on the beard and also hair on the side of the head.

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

Christmas Crafts for Kids - Wine Cork Santa Claus

Who can believe that this Santa is made out of a recycled wine cork? Kids will have fun making this cute Christmas craft for the holidays. It is a really easy project and is finished with a couple of hours.



For this project you will need:

- wine cork
- red and flesh acrylic paint
- 5mm red wooden bead (for the nose)
- pair of 6mm wiggly eyes
- 25 mm round styrofoam of pressed paper ball
- 3 soft white feathers
- white chenille
- red construction paper
- small white pompom
- hot glue gun (parents or supervisors should assist the children when using a hot glue gun) - or use strong craft glue as an alternative for younger kids
- paint brushes

Ages 10 and older

Instructions:

1. Paint the cork red and set aside to dry.
2. Paint the styrofoam or paper ball in flesh color and set aside to dry.
3. Create a Santa hat by following the instructions below in the step-by-step pictures. Wrap white chenille around the brim of the hat when it is dry and add a small white pom pom on the top of the hat.
4. Glue the wiggly eyes on the face.
5. Be careful for this step. Use scissors and “cut” the wooden ball in half by placing the scissors over the middle over the hole and pressing down.
6. Paint the wooden ball with the flesh color and set aside to dry.
7. Dry brush the cheeks with pink paint. This is done by dipping a stiff brush in the paint and wiping the paint off onto a paper towel until almost no more paint comes off the brush. Then pounce the brush onto cheeks until the intensity you want is

achieved.

8. Glue the head onto the body.

9. Glue one white feather onto the side of the face so that the soft part of the feather is facing down. Cut away excess feather at the top of the head.

10. Now do the same with the second feather.

11. Glue on a feather as a beard.

12. Glue the hat onto the head.

13. Glue the nose onto the face.

Tutorial for a Santa Hat



1. The Santa hat requires a cone shape and a circle.



2. Use a stylus to mark an inner circle on the circle piece. Cut a pie shape within this inner circle of which all 8 triangles are the same size. Take the stylus and score the space between the pie pieces...



3. ...and then bend the "pie" pieces upwards.



4. Place glue on the outside of the pieces and then place the cone shape over these. Press these pieces inside of the cone and let dry.

5. This is how the finished hat looks and is ready to use for the fairy, Santa or witch.

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

Writing practice:

1. HO!! Ho!! ho!! Write a letter to Santa Claus? Yes kids its true! Just finish this letter... Santa's waiting for *you*! From the North Pole, Santa will send your reply... faster than Rudolph the reindeer can fly!!

- Go to website to fill out and send Santa your letter
http://emailsanta.com/email_santa.asp
- Write your Christmas letter to Santa Claus!
http://emailsanta.com/email_santa.asp

2. Pet emails to Rudolph

So tell that loveable red-nosed reindeer what your pet wants for Christmas by finishing the letter Rudolph the red-nose reindeer thought EmailSanta was so cool that he asked the elves to create one just for pets! There's even a specially designed keyboard so Rudolph can reply!! So tell that loveable red-nosed reindeer what your pet wants for Christmas by finishing the letter to Rudolph below. We'll bet Rudolph will reply as fast as reindeers fly!!

- Go to website to fill out and send Rudolph your letter
http://emailsanta.com/email_santa.asp

3. Santa Claus Story Paper

Kids can use this lovely old-fashioned Christmas story paper with a picture of Santa Claus with his sleigh and reindeer to color in for some imaginative writing at Christmas time!

- <http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/santa-claus-story-paper>



Christmas Story Starter – Santa Claus

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/santa-claus-story-paper>

**Santa Claus opened his eyes.
Christmas Eve! The busiest day of
the year! He started planning
what he needed to do.**



Games

Who's got elves and reindeer? A red suit and hat? Loves boys and girls, milk and cookies?

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" Why, it must be Santa, must be Santa Claus!

(Print this page and cross out the letters as you find the words to reveal a secret message!)

Beard	Claus	Gift	Kringle	Merry	Northpole	Sky
Bells	Coal	Girls	Kris	Milk	Presents	Sleigh
Belly	Cookies	Hat	Laugh	MrsClaus	Red	Stockings
Big	Elves	HoHoHo	Letters	Naughty	Reindeer	Suit
Boys	Emails	Jelly	List	Nice	Rooftop	Toybag
Candycanes	Eve	Jingle	Magic	Nick	Rudolf	Toys
Chimney	Fireplace	Jolly	Mall	Noel	Saint	Twinkles
Christmas	Fly				Santa	Workshop

	S	T	O	C	K	I	N	G	S	B	P	O	H	S	K	R	O	W	N
	N	O	R	T	H	P	O	L	E	O	S	H	E	E	N	K	C	I	N
	F	L	O	D	U	R	I	L	T	A	O	N	T	I	O	N	C	T	M
	Y	L	L	E	B	A	L	F	T	H	A	N	T	K	E	E	I	M	R
	T	L	F	A	M	S	O	C	O	C	I	L	A	O	L	U	U	A	S
	H	O	L	E	A	O	S	H	Y	A	C	I	K	O	S	U	A	L	C
	G	J	Y	E	R	T	O	D	S	I	H	R	S	C	E	V	E	L	L
	U	I	R	B	J	E	N	C	G	O	I	M	E	L	V	E	S	A	A
	A	N	R	I	A	A	D	A	I	S	M	K	L	I	S	T	Y	U	U
	N	G	E	G	C	G	M	N	S	G	N	L	T	O	N	K	T	G	S
	C	L	M	G	I	R	L	S	S	L	E	I	G	H	S	D	O	H	T
	O	E	T	F	I	G	J	O	L	L	Y	M	W	D	R	A	E	B	A
	A	L	E	T	T	E	R	S	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	E	H
	L	E	C	A	L	P	E	R	I	F	K	R	I	N	G	L	E	N	R
	P	R	E	S	E	N	T	S	T	W	I	N	K	L	E	S	Y	O	B

The secret message is:

-----!

Santa's Reindeer

Now Dasher, now Dancer, now Prancer and Vixen! On Comet, on Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen! But can *you* find Rudolph's red nose (it glows!)?
(Print this page and cross out the letters as you find the words to reveal a secret message!)

Antlers	Cupid	Eight	Glow	Magic	Pull	Santa
Away	Dancer	Eve	Guide	Names	Rednose	Shiny
Bells	Dash	Fly	Hay	Nose	Reindeer	Sky
Blitzen	Dasher	Foggy	Hooves	Now	Reins	Sleigh
Buck	Doe	Food	Land	Olive	Rooftop	Tail
Christmas	Donder	Games	Laugh	Play	Rudolph	Tracks
Clarice	Donner	Glee	Lead	Prancer	Rudolf	Vixen
Comet						Wax

M	E	E	G	U	I	D	E	E	C	I	R	A	L	C	T	A	I	L
R	S	R	R	Y	V	I	X	E	N	C	E	I	G	H	T	E	V	E
B	O	S	E	D	O	N	N	E	R	F	P	H	A	Y	F	L	Y	H
L	N	R	C	A	S	N	I	E	R	O	L	T	B	U	C	K	R	R
I	P	E	N	T	R	H	I	S	H	G	A	H	E	T	M	T	E	E
T	U	L	A	N	A	S	I	G	T	G	Y	S	O	M	N	R	C	I
Z	L	T	D	A	S	R	U	N	L	Y	Y	A	O	A	O	A	N	N
E	L	N	U	S	D	A	U	F	Y	O	R	D	M	S	D	C	A	D
N	R	A	Y	O	L	O	M	D	L	O	W	E	M	E	O	K	R	E
L	E	A	O	C	F	H	R	T	O	A	S	S	D	V	N	S	P	E
E	W	F	I	L	S	E	G	F	S	L	N	I	D	O	D	K	N	R
A	M	G	O	G	H	L	T	I	A	I	P	D	O	O	E	Y	O	W
D	A	D	I	S	L	O	L	L	E	U	R	H	E	H	R	S	W	A
M	U	A	A	N	P	E	T	E	C	L	A	H	S	E	M	A	G	X
R	E	D	N	O	S	E	E	C	B	O	S	M	C	O	L	I	V	E

The secret message is:

 -----!

Santa Around the World

Joulupukki or Father Christmas. Sinterklas or Kris Kringle. Bellsnickle or Père Noël.

Whatever the name, Santa's spirit is loved around the world!

*(Print this page and cross out the letters as you find the words to reveal a secret message!
Each word appears separately in the puzzle).*

Ash Man (Germany)	Christkindle (Germany)	Father Christmas (England/N.Z.)	Hoteisho (Japan)	Kris Kringle (Aus./Can./U.S.)	Rauklas (Germany)
Babbo Natale (Italy)	Deda Mraz (Yugoslavia)	Gaghant Baba (Armenia)	Joulupukki (Finland)	Mikulas (Hungary)	Saint Nick (Aus./Can./U.S.)
Befana (Italy)	Diado Coleda (Bulgaria)	Ganesha (India)	Jultomten (Sweden)	Papa Noel (Spain)	Santa Claus (Aus./Can./U.S.)
Bellsnickle (Old American)	Dun Che Lao Ren (China)	Gwiazdor (Poland)	Kerstman (Belgium)	Pelznickel (Germany)	Sinterklas (Indonesia)
Bozicek (Slovenia)	Dyed Moroz (Russia)	Hagios Nikolaos (Greece)	Kolyada (Russia)	Pere Noel (France/Canada)	Svaty Miklas (Czechoslovakia)

A	S	H	T	H	S	S	O	F	K	H	O	E	L	G	N	I	R	K	H
M	A	N	N	Y	O	A	O	A	E	N	E	T	M	O	T	L	U	J	M
S	B	O	A	T	A	L	D	T	C	S	U	A	L	C	M	O	R	O	Z
O	E	H	H	A	L	K	I	H	I	E	R	A	H	S	E	N	A	G	R
I	L	S	G	V	O	I	A	E	Z	L	E	K	C	I	N	Z	L	E	P
G	L	I	A	S	K	M	D	R	O	S	A	I	N	T	Y	O	A	L	D
A	S	E	G	C	I	H	O	R	B	I	Z	A	R	M	S	D	E	E	Y
H	N	T	R	E	N	T	K	E	R	S	T	M	A	N	E	O	M	O	E
A	I	O	B	E	F	A	N	A	A	P	E	R	E	D	N	S	T	N	D
D	C	H	A	P	A	P	U	O	B	B	A	B	O	N	A	T	A	L	E
A	K	K	C	I	N	A	D	K	R	I	S	G	W	I	A	Z	D	O	R
Y	L	S	A	N	T	A	B	C	H	R	I	S	T	K	I	N	D	L	E
L	E	C	O	L	E	D	A	A	S	A	L	K	R	E	T	N	I	S	Y
O	S	A	L	K	U	A	R	O	B	I	K	K	U	P	U	L	U	O	J
K	U	S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	H	E	M	I	K	U	L	A	S

The secret message: _ _ ! _ _ ! _ _ ! _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ !

On line games

Other Santa Games

<http://www.santagames.net/games/memory.htm>

<http://www.gamesgames.com/games/santa-games>

<http://www.bgames.com/santa-games/>

Children's' Christmas Songs

Children's Christmas - Gene Autry, Liberace, Tiny Tim, Bobby Helms (J 781.723 CHI)

1. I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus
2. Rudolph the red nosed reindeer
3. Domnick the donkey
4. The story of Silent Night
5. Twinkle, Twinkle
6. White Christmas
7. I wanna go to Santa Claus Land
8. Pepino, the Italian mouse
9. The story of Snoopy's Christmas
10. Twas the night before Christmas

Santa's Rockin – The Wiggles (J 781.723 SAN)

Ring-A-Ding-A-Ding Dong, Great Big Man in Red, Mary's Boy Child, Captain Feathersword's Christmas dance, Rockin' Santa, Noche De Paz (Silent Night), This little baby is born again, Wags stop your barking, it's almost Christmas Day, Christmas Barcarolle (Let the world rejoice), Dorothy's Christmas roses, Away in a Manger, Henry the champion Christmas wrapper, O come all ye faithful, Day of joy, day of peace, Outro

Santa Claus is comin' to town – Told and sung by Fred Astaire (J 781.723 SAN)

Songs – Santa Claus it comin' to town and Frosty the Snowman.

REFERENCE LIST:

<http://www.unmuseum.org/santa.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki>

<http://www.coca-colacompany.com/holidays/the-true-history-of-the-modern-day-santa-claus>

[Jump up ^](#) [Christmas in France: Le Père Noël - Santa Claus, *France Diplomatie*](#)

<http://www.soon.org.uk/en/articles/christmas/around-the-world.html>

<http://www.santas.net/spanishchristmas.htm>

<http://superteacherworksheets.com>

http://www.math-drills.com/christmas/christmas_word_problems.html

<http://math.about.com/od/christmasmathworksheets/a/xmaswp.htm>

<http://www.growingajeweledrose.com>

<http://www.kidzone.ws/math/christmas/#Worksheets4>

<http://www.science-sparks.com>

<http://www.craftideas.info/html/santa3.html>

http://emailsanta.com/email_santa.asp

<http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/santa-claus-story-paper>

Santa Claus Games (http://www.EmailSanta.com/christmas_games/santa_claus.htm)

TEXAS ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TEKS)

MATH §111.6. Grade 4, Adopted 2012. MATH

Chapter 111. Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics

Subchapter A. Elementary

§111.1. Implementation of Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Mathematics, Elementary

(4) Number and operations. The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies and methods for whole number computations and decimal sums and differences in order to solve problems with efficiency and accuracy. The student is expected to:

(A) add and subtract whole numbers and decimals to the hundredths place using the standard algorithm (SUBTRACTION SHEET)

(1) Mathematical process standards. The student uses mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate mathematical understanding. The student is expected to:

(G) display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication. (WORD PROBLEMS)

§111.7. Grade 5, Adopted 2012.

(3) Number and operations. The student applies mathematical process standards to develop and use strategies and methods for positive rational number computations in order to solve problems with efficiency and accuracy. The student is expected to:

(K) add and subtract positive rational numbers fluently (SUBTRACTION SHEET)

(1) Mathematical process standards. The student uses mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate mathematical understanding. The student is expected to:

(G) display, explain, and justify mathematical ideas and arguments using precise mathematical language in written or oral communication. (WORD PROBLEMS)

SCIENCE

5TH GRADE

(4) In Grade 5, investigations are used to learn about the natural world. Students should understand that certain types of questions can be answered by investigations and that methods, models, and conclusions built from these investigations change as new observations are made. Models of objects and events are tools for understanding the natural world and can show how systems work. They have limitations and based on new discoveries are constantly being modified to more closely reflect the natural world.

(A) Within the physical environment, students learn about the physical properties of matter, including magnetism, physical states of matter, relative density, solubility in water, and the

ability to conduct or insulate electrical and heat energy. Students explore the uses of light, thermal, electrical, and sound energies. (SINK OR FLOAT).

(5) Matter and energy. The student knows that matter has measurable physical properties and those properties determine how matter is classified, changed, and used. The student is expected to:

(D) identify changes that can occur in the physical properties of the ingredients of solutions such as dissolving salt in water or adding lemon juice to water. (SANTA TOOTHPASTE)

READING

§110.15. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 4

(3) Reading/Comprehension of Literary Text/Theme and Genre. Students analyze, make inferences and draw conclusions about theme and genre in different cultural, historical, and contemporary contexts and provide evidence from the text to support their understanding. (Read information from stories of Santa)

WRITING

§110.15. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 4

(18) Writing/Expository and Procedural Texts. Students write expository and procedural or work-related texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes. Students are expected to:

(B) write letters whose language is tailored to the audience and purpose (e.g., a thank you note to a friend) and that use appropriate conventions (e.g., date, salutation, closing), (Emails to Santa and Rudolph)

(16) Writing/Literary Texts. Students write literary texts to express their ideas and feelings about real or imagined people, events, and ideas. Students are expected to:

(A) write imaginative stories that build the plot to a climax and contain details about the characters and setting (Santa Claus story paper)

(18) Writing/Expository and Procedural Texts. Students write expository and procedural or work-related texts to communicate ideas and information to specific audiences for specific purposes (Christmas Story Starter – Santa Claus)

SOCIAL STUDIES

6th grade

6.15. Cultural Differences

A) Define concepts of culture and culture regions (Read/Research Santa Claus from different places in the world, Santa in the Netherlands, Santa in France, etc.)

6.4. Characteristics of Major Societies

A) Locate major historical and contemporary societies on globes and maps (Use world map or globe to locate places where Santa appears.)